

rhythms. To such causes are due some of the most extraordinary phenomena of nests and nest life, such as the 'cuckoo instinct,' double, compound, or superimposed nests, the desertion of the last young, etc." (p. 336).

While criticising most of the literature of nest-building Prof. Herrick also points out the difficulties with which students of the subject have to contend — especially the necessity for continuous observation for hours and even days. "In spite of such drawbacks, however, it would be difficult to name a field in the province of behavior where the right kind of study promises more interesting results the world over, and where some of the phenomena to be witnessed close to your door, may be as worthy of record as anything observed in the forests of Brazil or of Africa."—W. S.

Beebe and Crandall on The Undescribed Juvenal Plumage of the Yucatan Jay.¹—The plumages and molt of specimens of *Cissilopha yucatanica* living in the New York Zoological Park, are here described. When received they were in full juvenal plumage with the entire head and underparts white. This changed at the post-juvenal molt to the usual black, and subsequently the white tipped rectrices were replaced by those of uniform blue while the mandibles and eye ring eventually became black. The yellow bill is thus a character of immaturity and not sexual, as has sometimes been supposed. The early white breasted plumage in this species was quite unexpected.—W. S.

Henshaw's Report of the Chief of the Biological Survey for 1911.²—The important work of this branch of the U. S. Department of Agriculture in its efforts to protect the useful birds and game of the country and to check the depredations of noxious species, is too well known to require detailed notice in this connection, but anyone who reads Mr. Henshaw's interesting report will be astonished at the varied fields in which the activities of the Survey are carried on, and the benefits that they render to the Agricultural and other interests of the United States. Special ornithological investigations of the year have dealt with the Birds of Arkansas, the Food of Woodpeckers, the Food of Wild Waterfowl, while field work has been prosecuted in Alabama, Idaho, Arkansas, Kentucky, Montana, Tennessee, Wyoming and Virginia.—W. S.

Townsend's Captain Cartwright and his Labrador Journal.³—Dr. Charles W. Townsend already well known for his writings on the

¹ The Undescribed Juvenal Plumage of the Yucatan Jay. By C. William Beebe and Lee S. Crandall, *Zoologica*, Scientific Contributions of the New York Zoological Society. Vol. I, No. 7, pp. 153-156, with colored plate, December 5, 1911.

² Report of the Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey for 1911. By Henry W. Henshaw. Annual Reports of the Department of Agriculture 1911, pp. 1-20.

³ Captain Cartwright | and his | Labrador Journal | edited by | Charles Wendell Townsend, M. D. | Author of "Along the Labrador Coast," "A Labrador | Spring," "The Birds of Essex County" and joint | author of "Birds of Labrador | with an Introduction by | Dr. Wilfred T. Grenfell | Illustrations from Old Engravings, Photographs, | and a Map. | vignette | Boston | Dana Estes & Company | Publishers | 1911. Svo., pp. i-xxxiii + 1-385.